

314th Civil Engineer Squadron

Location: Little Rock Air Force Base, AR **Commander:** Lt Col Michael Falino **Assigned Personnel:** 216 military, 113 civilians and 44 Individual Mobilization Augmentees **Unit Mission:** To provide base support for a continuous training mission and ensure access for a global airlift mission. **Alias:** Combat Engineers

Base, Wing and Unit History: In 1951 the Air Force considered building a base in the Little Rock area, but Congress refused to allocate money to purchase the property. Undaunted, local citizens raised funds to purchase the land from more than 150 private owners, then donated the land to the Air Force. Little Rock AFB opened in October 1955 and maintains the same community support and spirit.

The base consists of more than 6,000 acres, a 12,000-foot runway and 3,500-foot assault strip. It has a population of more than 5,000 active-duty military and civilian members and about 5,500 family members. The base has operated under various commands, including Strategic Airlift Command, Tactical Air Command, Military Airlift Command, Air Mobility Command, Air Combat Command and, finally, AETC. During the ACC years, the 314th CES adopted the unofficial title of "Combat Engineers." They proudly carry that name today.

Recent Accomplishments: The past year has provided many opportunities for the Combat Engineers to do what they do best — perform as a team. With firefighters leading the charge, the entire unit fought a 25-acre woodland fire that

threatened 12 base housing units. They stopped the fire cold just 50 feet from the homes, valued at 1.5 million dollars.

The Combat Engineers deployed more than 50 personnel to eight locations in support of five operations over the past year, including a team deployment to Kuwait under Operation SOUTHERN WATCH. In December 2000, Arkansas was devastated by two of the worst ice storms in its history. Despite the majority of the state being without power for up to 14 days, base operations were practically unhindered as snow and ice teams maintained a 100 percent operational aerodrome and base accessibility.

314th CES efforts this year were not limited to contingency and emergency response; Combat Engineers also demonstrated they can be civil. Our Environmental Flight established a Consent Administrative Order (CAO) to set ground rules for compliance issues between the base and state. The CAO fosters close work relations with Arkansas regulators and is the first of its kind Air Force-wide. Through integrated process teams, the Housing Flight executed a benchmarked privatization acquisition program to improve the quality of living for military families. The Engineering Flight has earned the AETC Civil Engineer/Logistics Partnering Award for the second consecutive year. The 314th CES also received the DoD Fire Department of the Year Award in 1999 and was recently selected as the AETC Outstanding Small CE Unit for the second year in a row.

The future of "The Rock" is in good hands.



UNIT SPOTLIGHT